

## Gallaudet Fact—

**Q.** How many people did the University and the Clerc Center serve in 2008 through conferences, professional studies courses, information dissemination, and other activities?

- A. 47,000
- B. 102,000
- C. 70,000
- D. 600,000

Find out on page 3.



Alumna and former Board of Trustees member Susan Elliott (center) shows off a Gallaudet blanket she received at a reception to celebrate her recent accomplishments. With her on the Peikoff Alumni House stage are Dr. Carol LaSasso, who taught Elliott as a graduate student, and President Davila. Elliott was selected as Colorado's 2009 Teacher of the Year, and was later named one of four finalists for National Teacher of the Year. The March 11 reception was held during Elliott's visit to Washington, D.C. to interview for the prestigious position. "We want to give our sincere congratulations to you," Dr. Davila said at the reception, which was co-sponsored by the Office of the President and the Graduate School, and he wished her luck. He added that, whatever the outcome of her interview, given her accomplishments to date, "You're already a winner." To watch a video of the reception, go to: [at.gallaudet.edu/susanelliottreception.xml](http://at.gallaudet.edu/susanelliottreception.xml).

## IN THIS ISSUE



### Roving Reporter

Kimberly Huseby is guardedly optimistic about a turn-around in the U.S. economy.



Thelma Chimani gets information about job opportunities at the U.S. Census Bureau at the Career Center's March 11 Internship and Job Fair.



Some members of the KDES girls' team who won the Sixth Tri-State Middle School Basketball Tournament on March 11 celebrate their victory.



Marjorie DeVault reported on her research observing people at zoos at a February 6 presentation.

On the Green—A publication for Gallaudet faculty, teachers, and staff  
Gallaudet University • 800 Florida Avenue NE, Washington, DC 20002-3695

## The Hon. Wilma Newhoudt-Druchen, alumna and first deaf member of the South African Parliament, to deliver Commencement address; honorary degree recipients named



Wilma Newhoudt-Druchen

**T**he Honorable Wilma Newhoudt-Druchen, a Gallaudet alumna who in 1999 became the first deaf person to be elected to the South African Parliament, will share her experiences with the Class of 2009 at Gallaudet's 140th Commencement exercises on May 15.

Newhoudt-Druchen will be awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree from President Davila at Commencement. Dr. Davila will also award an honorary doctor of science degree to Dr. Ursula Bellugi and honorary doctor of humane letters degrees to Knüd Søndergaard and Roberto Wirth.

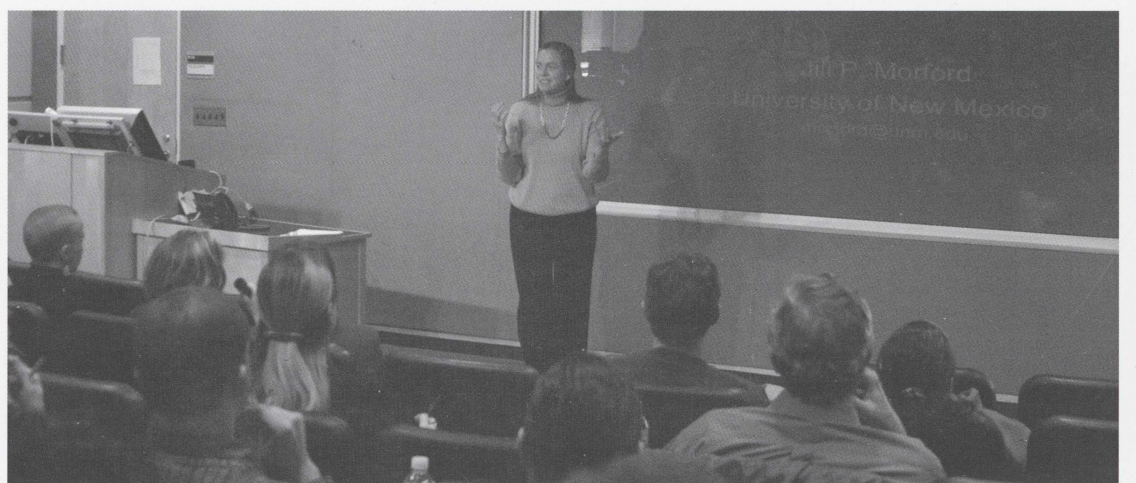
Newhoudt-Druchen earned both her undergraduate and graduate degrees in social work from Gallaudet. She began using the leadership skills she acquired at the University when she became a social worker in 1994 for Deaf Community of Cape Town. A few years later, she was hired as provincial director of the Deaf Federation of South Africa, and today holds the distinction of being the first woman to serve as chair of this national organization for deaf people. She quickly acquired a reputation as a staunch advocate for people with disabilities and was nominated to Parliament by the organization Disabled People of South Africa.

Over the past decade, Newhoudt-Druchen has gained recognition for her skill, energy, and dedication as chair of Parliament's Joint Monitoring Committee on the Improvement of Quality of Life and Status of Children, Youth, and Disabled Persons. In addition to her trailblazing efforts in her own country, Newhoudt-Druchen has distinguished herself on the world stage through her leadership as a board member of the World Federation of the Deaf. In recognition of her outstanding achievements in promoting the rights of deaf people, the Gallaudet University Alumni Association awarded its Outstanding Young Alumnus Award to Newhoudt-Druchen in 2002.

Bellugi is director of the Laboratory for Cognitive Neuroscience at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla, Calif., and is a pioneer in the study of the biological foundations of language. She is known for her early work in the neurobiology of America Sign Language users. Her work was among the first to demonstrate structural properties of a signed language and to use hemispheric studies to show left hemisphere specialization in signed languages, just as it does for spoken languages. Her laboratory not only helped to establish American Sign Language as a human language, but was also a place where she and her team of colleagues were able to document that the acquisition of signed languages by young deaf children closely resembles the acquisition of spoken

*continued on page 2*

## VL2 researchers from around the world gather at Gallaudet for winter meeting



Dr. Jill Morford of the University of New Mexico's Department of Linguistics gives a presentation, "How We Make Sense of Signs: Sign Perception and Recognition by Native and Non-native Signers," during the Gallaudet-hosted VL2 Winter Meeting.

**V**isual Language and Visual Learning (VL2) Center researchers from around the world came to Gallaudet at the end of February for the VL2 Winter Meeting. This is the third year that Gallaudet's VL2 has sponsored this gathering, which is designed to showcase VL2 activities.

Dr. Jill Morford of the University of New Mexico's Department of Linguistics gave a February 26 presentation, "How We Make Sense of Signs: Sign Perception and Recognition by Native and Non-native Signers," in which she discussed how signers perceive and make sense of thousands of common signs in a complex process that seems effortless on the surface.

Morford reported the results of two studies that investigated sign perception and sign recognition by native and non-native signers. While these two groups did not differ in their ability to quickly identify hand shapes and sign locations, native signers were able to recognize signs more readily than non-native signers in a task that successively reduced, by making shorter and shorter video clips, the amount of information available to the participants.

On February 27, the researchers worked in teams on individual projects that make up the research portfolio for VL2, and students from Gallaudet and other VL2 partners held a day-long retreat. During the student retreat, Dr. Carol Padden, an associate dean at the University of California, San Diego and trustee emeritus, who serves as a science consultant for VL2, provided a grant writing workshop, and Dr. Jenny Singleton, an associate professor in the College of Education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, presented a workshop on research ethics.

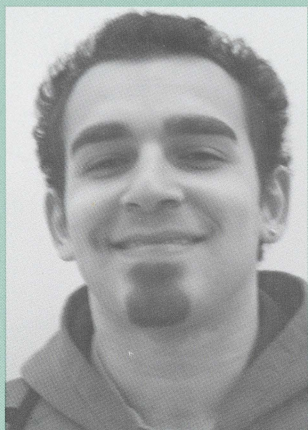
A full day of in-depth research presentations by VL2 Center researchers took place on February 28. The VL2 External Scientific Advisory Board members were present to review and to provide constructive feedback on the research efforts.

The meeting ended on March 1 with a discussion by VL2 scientists and the Advisory Board on how to improve the VL2 Center at Gallaudet. The board will submit a formal report containing recommendations to VL2 in the near future. ■



## Roving Reporter

### What is your forecast for America's economy?



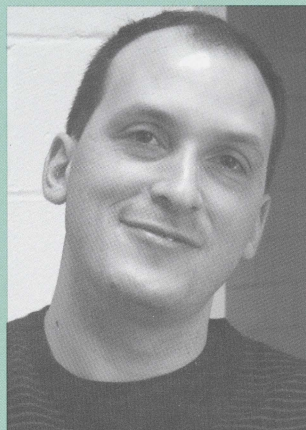
*My prediction is that it will improve a lot. President Obama has made several changes, and I am sure our economy will recover.*

Garri Azrelyant, accounting tutor and student tour guide



*That will depend on if the federal government and business work together to organize America's budget. Once that is happening, I know the American economy will be successful.*

Kimberly Huseby, multimedia technician, Academic Technology



*Our economy is undergoing fundamental changes, which will take a few years to work out and will cause much hardship in the short-run. However, like all change, this transformation will bring new opportunities, particularly to the creative and motivated.*

Sam Swiller, adjunct faculty, Department of Business



Students Eric Carlson (left) and Thelma Chimani (right) discuss career opportunities with Peter Sepielli from the U.S. Census Bureau at the Career Center's March 11 Internship and Job Fair, held at the Kellogg Conference Hotel. The fair offered an ideal opportunity for Gallaudet students and alumni to find myriad employment opportunities in one central place. According to Anjali Desai-Margolin, acting director of the Career Center, the event was a big success, attracting 46 employers offering internships and full- or part-time employment opportunities to the 300-plus students who attended the fair. She said that there was a good mix of federal agencies and private companies represented, including: AAAS Entry Point!, Booz-Allen Hamilton, Inc., Transportation Security Administration/Department of Homeland Security, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Bender Consulting Services, Inc., Howard County Public Schools, MCC-Warwick Family Services, NASA, Sorenson Communications, and the U.S. Agency for International Development, to name a few.

## GCRC to host 26th Annual Awards and Recognition Program

The Gallaudet Community Relations Council (GCRC) will host its 26th Annual Awards and Recognition Program on Saturday, April 11 at 3 p.m. in the Gallaudet University Kellogg Conference Center and Hotel. A dinner reception will immediately follow the program. This year's theme is "GCRC, Being a Part of the Change."

The distinguished keynote speaker for the awards program will be the Honorable Vincent C. Gray, chairman of the District of Columbia City Council. Gray has a solid reputation as a champion for the city's children and their families. The mistress of ceremonies will be Dr. Angela McCaskill, administrative director for the Science of Learning Center (SLC) on Visual Language and Visual Learning (VL2) at Gallaudet, one of six SLC's funded by the National Science Foundation. McCaskill is a seasoned educational administrator with over 25 years of program experience serving people with disabilities.

The purpose of the awards program is to award and recognize individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions toward improving the quality of life for the residents of the Near Northeast Community and strengthening the relationship between Gallaudet and the community. The council has invited community organizations to honor people from their organization or other individuals who are deserving of such recognition.

The GCRC was organized in 1975 to provide an ongoing means of communication between the University and the community. Since its inception, the two entities have continued to foster a positive working relationship with the residents of the community through programs and activities. The council consists of representatives from the University, civic organizations, the Police Department, and private industry. Both the community and the University have benefited from the significant contributions made by the council.

The campus community is encouraged to attend the program and dinner reception.

Tickets are \$15 for adults/\$10 for students and children. Tickets are available by contacting Sharrell McCaskill at [sharrell.mccaskill@gallaudet.edu](mailto:sharrell.mccaskill@gallaudet.edu), phone/VP 202-651-5462, or in person at College Hall, Rm. 312. ■



Registrar's Office staff members congratulate Elice Patterson (right), associate registrar, for 10 years of service to the University.

## Newhoudt-Druchen

*continued from page 1*

languages. As a result of her many years of dedicated research on American Sign Language, there is now a broad interest in studying languages in another modality and in the plasticity of the human brain with respect to language.

Søndergaard is a man of considerable achievements who has made countless contributions to improve the quality of life for individuals in the deaf community in local, national, regional, and international arenas. Deaf people have seen major improvements in many different aspects of life, including education, social service, recreation, and government service because of his commitment and dedication. Søndergaard recently retired as president of the Danish Deaf Association, and he is a board member of Dovefonden, a foundation that raises funds to support the deaf association, organizations for deaf people, and deaf individuals. In addition, he is a former president of the European Union of the Deaf, an honorary life member and former secretary general of the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf, and finance officer for the World Federation of the Deaf.

Wirth epitomizes the idea that deaf people can do anything they set their minds to do. He is the owner and general manager of Hotel Hessler in Rome, Italy, recognized for over a century as one of the prime hotels in Europe. He is active in various organizations that strive to provide opportunities for other deaf people, and assists deaf youth in achieving their career aspirations. He is the founder of the Roberto Wirth Fund Onlus, a non-profit organization that is dedicated to the support of deaf and deaf-blind children and their families. A role model for other deaf people, Wirth has increased public awareness of deaf people's abilities through his success in the hospitality business. Wirth served for a number of years on advisory boards at

the National Technical Institute for the Deaf and at Gallaudet. He is a strong supporter of Italian students who attend Gallaudet. ■

## Ask Cousin Sally

Cousin Sally has been on spring break, but looks forward to reading your questions when she returns. Email her at [cousin.sally@gallaudet.edu](mailto:cousin.sally@gallaudet.edu).

## ON THE GREEN

Kendall Green  
Gallaudet University  
800 Florida Avenue, NE  
Washington, DC 20002-3695

Published bi-weekly for the staff, teachers, and faculty of Gallaudet University by the Office of Public Relations.

**Vice President for Institutional Advancement**  
Paul Drehoff

**Acting Director & Publications Manager**  
Roz Prickett

**Editor & Photo Editor**  
Todd Byrd

**Writer & Photographer**  
Rhea Yablon Kennedy

**Photographer**  
Cloe Canela

**Contributors**  
Brooke Budzinski  
Enrollment Marketing  
Karen Evans  
Darlene Prickett

**Design/Production**  
Graphic Design & Production

**Printing**  
BelJean Printing

Gallaudet University is an equal opportunity employer/educational institution and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, religion, age, hearing status, disability, covered veteran status, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, source of income, place of business or residence, pregnancy, childbirth, or any other unlawful basis.

98-342M



## Clerc Center Happenings

### Capital Athletics Association honors MSSD teams at Breakfast of Champions Summit



Photo: Susan Flanigan

MSSD boys football and girls basketball teams and their coaching staffs joined championship teams from around the city at the Capital Athletics Association's "Breakfast of Champions," where politicians and sports figures praised them for their athletic accomplishments.

By Susan M. Flanigan

Growing up, how many of us sat at the kitchen table with a box of Wheaties cereal, the "breakfast of champions"? The front of the cereal box always featured an inspiring picture and profile of a famous athlete. It seemed to promise that if we ate a good breakfast, some day we too could become star athletes.

On March 6, the Capital Athletics Association filled an entire ballroom-sized space at The Cannon House Office Building with champion athletes for its Second annual Breakfast of Champions. The association brought together teams and coaching staff from public and private schools across Washington, D.C. to honor their winning seasons. Over a hearty breakfast (but no cereal!), student-athletes from seven schools, including MSSD, were lauded and recognized by D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty, Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton, (D-D.C.), National Basketball Association legend Dave Bing, Ward 5 City Council member Harry Thomas, Jr., and NBC4 sports reporter and anchor Hakem Dermish.

The MSSD football team was recognized for winning the Capitol Area Football Conference and the MSSD girls' basketball team was recognized for winning the Clerc Classic IX National Deaf Prep Basketball Tournament this winter. The athletic staff was recognized as well.

In the keynote speech, Hall of Fame winner Bing encouraged the students to

take their academics as seriously as their athletics. He remembered his tenth grade coach saying, "Young man, you have talent, but the worst thing you can do is to tell people about it. Prove it on the court, prove it in the classroom, and prove it in life." Bing shared how, although he came from a poor family, he was prepared to compete in the classroom as well as on the basketball court at Syracuse University.

At the end of the event, the association representatives and Thomas presented each team with a copy of a team photo taken in the Cannon House's rotunda before the breakfast and a resolution honoring their school and the winning season. Thomas, who represents the ward where MSSD is located, praised its teams and introduced the rest of the audience to the "deaf wave" for applause. Following the ceremony, the proud MSSD student-athletes posed with Thomas for a photo.

MSSD Athletic Director and coach Mark Burke said he was proud of the MSSD teams and their accomplishments. Burke particularly liked Bing's "Five P's" for student success: "Proper Preparation Prevents Poor Performance." Burke said he plans to make a poster with the "Five P's" to inspire the MSSD student-athletes, who will always remember how they were honored among top athletes across the city at a Breakfast of Champions. ■

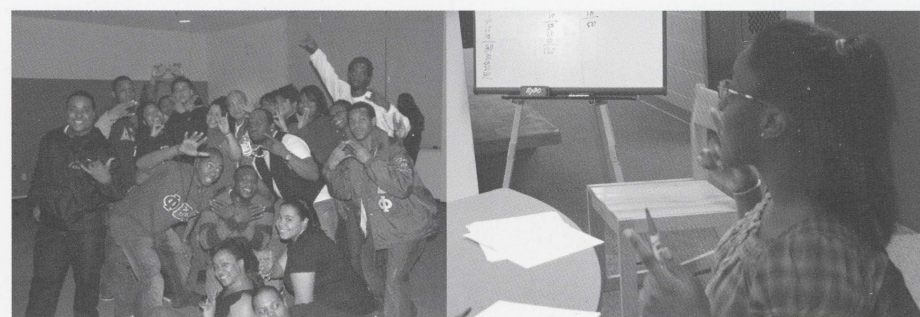
## Among Ourselves

Dr. Pia Taavila, a professor in the Department of English, gave a reading on March 5 as part of the opening gala event of HerStory 4: Feminine Reflection, held at the Belmont-Sewell House and Museum in Washington, D.C., in conjunction with Women's History Month. To read an interview with Taavila that appeared in "Making HerStory ... the annual celebration of women in the arts," go to [makingherstoryart-series.blogspot.com](http://makingherstoryart-series.blogspot.com). In January, Taavila attended the Palm Beach Poetry Festival where she gave a poetry reading and studied under poets Gerald Stern and Anne Marie Macari.



Department of Interpretation professors Cynthia Roy (left) and Melanie Metzger (right), and undergraduate honors research assistant Carlisle Robinson, described their three-year Gallaudet Research Institute (GRI) Priority Grant-supported project, "Investigating Interactive Interpreting," at a March 4 GRI First Wednesday Research Seminar. The researchers gathered data, videotaping nine interpreted interactions including medical, legal, business/government, and educational situations engaged in group or one-on-one, face-to-face discourse via interpreters. The data are 80 percent transcribed and coded for turn-taking and source attribution, with both quantitative and qualitative analyses in progress.

## Black History Month activities invite campus to share knowledge, learn, and rock out



(LEFT) Fraternity and sorority members and their friends pose for a photo at the Black Greek Party held February 28. (Right) Student Kendra Oladipo answers a question during the February 27 Black History Month Jeopardy game sponsored by Commuter Programs.

Throughout the month of February, the Gallaudet community had a chance to celebrate Black History Month in a number of ways.

Activities began on February 12 with Soul Food Night, sponsored by the Cafeteria and the Black Deaf Student Union (BDSU). This event was followed by two weekends of performances. First, the Theatre Arts Department staged an encore presentation of August Wilson's play *Fences*, with a portion of ticket proceeds supporting the Martin Luther King Memorial slated for the National Mall. Next, the community learned about black innovators' contributions to American society from the show *1,001 Black Inventions*, put on by the Invisible Hands dance company and PinPoints Theatre and sponsored by the Keeping the Promise program.

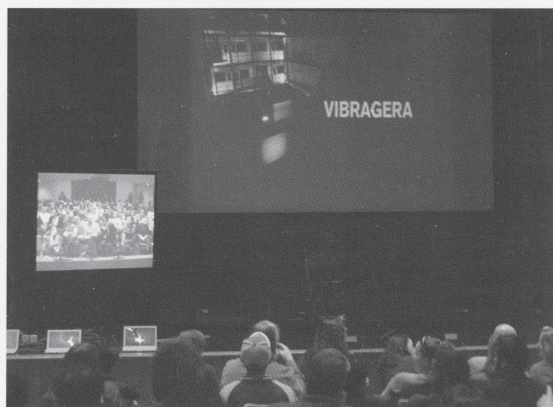
To further bolster their knowledge, students, faculty, and staff had the opportunity to attend two informative lectures sponsored by BDSU. The first, a February 25 presentation on the contributions of black athletes—deaf and hearing—to the history of American sports, was given by Ruth "Sandy" McLennon,

an assistant professor in the Department of Physical Education and Recreation. On February 27, undergraduate Poloko Qobose took his audience members across the ocean for a look at the culture and history of his home country of Botswana.

Also on February 27, students were given a chance to show off their knowledge at a game of Black History Month Jeopardy sponsored by Commuter Programs. Later that day, models lit up the Kendall Green runway in the annual BDSU fashion show hosted by undergraduate Anthony Harrison.

On the final day of Black History Month, BDSU sponsored the Black Greek Party to bring together over 100 African American fraternity and sorority members and their friends from Gallaudet, Howard University, American University, Bowie State, and other area schools. Music, networking, and fellowship rocked the Jordan Student Academic Center late into the night.

"It was an honor to host Black History Month at Gallaudet University," said BDSU President TaWanda Barkley. ■



Members of the campus community get ready to enjoy a webcast dance performance from Sweden called Vibragera, broadcast live on March 12 in Andrew Foster Auditorium. About 1,500 audience members in Sweden watched the dance and felt the vibrations, while a smaller but still enthusiastic group at Gallaudet shared the experience. The Gallaudet group was visible to the Swedish audience throughout the performance. The event was a co-production of

the world famous Tyst Teater ("Silent Theatre") of Sweden, Stockholm's Royal Institute of Technology, and Gallaudet.

### Gallaudet Fact—

Answer: B. 102,000. To be more exact, the number is over 102,800, including more than 42,800 people served by the University's conferences, leadership institutes, and professional studies and extension courses, regional centers, and other activities. This was combined with the Clerc Center's service to over 62,000 individuals through training, technical assistance, information dissemination, exhibits, and performances. Though Gallaudet did not directly serve the equivalent of the population of Washington, D.C. (option D.), the school did reach an impressive number.





Dr. MJ Bienvenu, associate professor in the Department of ASL and Deaf Studies, presents "Gallaudet's New Mission: What does it mean in practice?" on February 18. The presentation, sponsored by the Graduate School and the Department of ASL and Deaf Studies, explored what adopting bilingualism means for the Gallaudet community. Full adoption will include confronting myths and assumptions about bilingualism, and integrating both ASL and English into academic discourse, assessment, and all other aspects of a Gallaudet education.

## Campus Calendar

### March

**27-28**—Students Of Color Leadership Institute, March 27, 4-6 p.m., and March 28, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., JSAC Multipurpose Room and Flex A/B (must have applied by March 13)

### April

**2**—Memorial Service for Dr. Mike Kemp, 4-6 p.m., GUKCH Ballroom

**3**—Undergraduate open house, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Gallaudet Dance Company spring dance concert, "Times—They are a-Changing," 10:30 a.m., Foster Auditorium; Charter Day Birthday Cake Celebration, noon, JSAC Market Place; Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial presentation: "Abraham Lincoln: His Advocacy for Deaf People," 1-3 p.m., location TBA

**4**—40th Annual Charter Day Brunch and Awards Program, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Peikoff Alumni House, ticket required

**6**—PFLAG Monthly Meeting, 7:30-9 p.m., HMB S135

**7**—Panel discussion: *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*, 4-5 p.m., JSAC G-Area; President's Town Hall, 3:30-4:30 p.m., Foster Auditorium

**9**—Preview performance: *Urinetown, the Musical*, 8 p.m., Elstad Auditorium

**10**—Racquetball Tournament, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Field House Racquetball Room; *Urinetown, the Musical*, 8 p.m., Elstad Auditorium

**11**—Gallaudet Community Relations Council's 26th Annual Awards and Recognition Program, 3 p.m., GUKCH; *Urinetown, the Musical*, 2 and 8 p.m., Elstad Auditorium

**12**—*Urinetown, the Musical*, 2 p.m., Elstad Auditorium

**13**—Molecular Genetics Laboratory open house, 2-4 p.m., HMB W411

**15**—Language Lecture Series presentation: "Building an ASL Corpus," noon-1 p.m., SLCC Atrium

**16**—*Urinetown, the Musical*, 8 p.m., Elstad Auditorium

**17**—*Urinetown, the Musical*, 8 p.m., Elstad Auditorium

**18**—*Urinetown, the Musical*, 2 and 8 p.m., Elstad Auditorium

**19**—*Urinetown, the Musical*, 2 p.m., Elstad Auditorium

## Noted feminist scholar reports on research about watching people at the ZOO



Syracuse University professor of sociology Marjorie DeVault (second from left), who gave a February 6 presentation on her findings about family life in public, is pictured with Department of Sociology faculty members (from left) Dr. Sharon Barnartt, chair, Dr. Jeremy L. Brunson, assistant professor, and Dr. John Christiansen, professor.

The relationship between dissertation advisor and advisee is a close one. Often advisees will continue to rely on their dissertation advisors for professional advice after the dissertation project has been completed and they have graduated.

Dr. Jeremy L. Brunson, an assistant professor in the Sociology Department, has such a relationship with his dissertation advisor, noted sociologist and feminist scholar Marjorie DeVault of Syracuse University. When Brunson learned that his mentor and friend would be in the D.C. area for a meeting, he immediately thought of how he could expose the Gallaudet community to her knowledge. After discussing his idea with the other faculty members in his department, Brunson coordinated an academic presentation by Dr. DeVault.

DeVault chose to share her research findings about the social organization of everyday experiences of zoo visitors at a February 6 presentation, "Beyond the Home: Family Life in Public." To help prepare for the presentation, attendees

were provided with an article DeVault wrote based on earlier data gathered through the method renowned sociologist Erving Goffman referred to as "glimpsing."

Several sociology majors and non-majors attended the presentation. Students working on their senior Capstone project came to learn about academic presentations, observing DeVault's techniques and considering them for their own presentations later on. Students in a GSR course on ethics came to consider the ethical implications of her research. After her presentation, DeVault talked with students about her analysis.

Along with several scholarly articles, DeVault is author of *Feeding the Family: The Social Organization of Caring as Gendered Work and Liberating Method: Feminism and Social Research*. Additionally, she has edited a book on the changing nature of work in the neoliberal economy, entitled *People at Work: Life, Power, and Social Inclusion in the New Economy*. ■

## KDES girls win Sixth Annual Tri-State Middle School Basketball Tournament; boys finish second

The KDES girls basketball team defeated four-time defending champion Lake Drive School for the Deaf, 14-9, to win the Sixth Annual Tri-State Middle School Basketball Tournament, held March 11 at Mountain Lakes High School, Mountain Lakes, N.J.

In addition, the KDES girls team won the sportsmanship award, the free-throw shooting contest, and the lay-up contest. Jade DeLaO and Kelly Doleac were named to the all-star team.

The girls team defeated Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf by one point in double overtime to advance to the championship game. The team made three free throws in the final 30 seconds of the second overtime to advance. Girls head coach Nanette Virnig said, "Winning the tournament boosted the girls' self-esteem and confidence. You can see they feel good about themselves now. They believe in themselves now."

The boys team advanced to the championship game, where they lost 17-13 to Lake Drive, but came home with the free-throw shooting championship. Edward Berke and Diego Trejo were named to the all-star team.

Boys head coach Timothy Worthylake said he was proud of his team. "It was good to see them grow, get the experience, and make new friends," he said. "The boys realize it takes hard work to succeed." Worthylake summed up the experience in the words of one of his boys who said, "It was the best experience I've ever had." ■



The Kendall girls basketball team celebrates winning the Sixth Annual Tri-State Middle School Basketball Tournament on March 11 at Mountain Lakes High School in Mountain Lakes, N.J., defeating four-time defending champion Lake Drive School for the Deaf, 14-9. The Kendall girls also won the sportsmanship award, free-throw shooting contest, and lay-up contest.